



Specialty Crop Block Grant Workshops Offered

Release Date: February 17, 2012

Contact: Ashley Huibregtse, 608-224-5002

Jim Dick, Communications Director, 608-224-5020

MADISON – Completing a grant application can be daunting. To ease the process, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is offering workshops across the state to assist non-profit organizations, producer groups, government agencies, universities and other agricultural entities in completing the Specialty Crop Block Grant application.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funds assist with research, industry improvements and consumer education that will increase the demand, supply and consumption of specialty crops. Projects should benefit the specialty crop industry as a whole and not provide direct profit to a specific organization, institution or individual.

Dates and locations for the 2012 Specialty Crop Block Grant workshops are:

- Tuesday, February 28 at 2:30-4:30 p.m., DATCP Board Room, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison
- Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30-8:30 p.m., Mead Wildlife Visitor Center, S2148 County S, Milladore
- Thursday, March 8 at 7:00-9:00 p.m., NWTC, 2740 West Mason Street, Green Bay

At the workshops, Juli Speck, DATCP's Grant Specialist, will walk participants through each step of the grant writing process, offer suggestions for writing strong proposals, and offer feedback on project proposal ideas. To register for the workshops, contact Speck at 608-224-5134 or juli.speck@wi.gov.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) authorized the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide Specialty Crop Block Grant funds to states for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Specialty crops are defined in law as: fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.

Applications for Specialty Crop Block Grants are due to DATCP by 4:30 p.m. on April 2, 2012. For the grant manual and application, visit <http://datep.wi.gov> and search "specialty crop." You can also connect with DATCP on Twitter at twitter.com/widatcp or Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp.

###